

Josephite Companions Aotearoa Christmas Liturgy 2021

Carol Our Christmas - YouTube

by Shirley Murray

1. Carol our Christmas, an upside-down Christmas;
The snow is not falling and trees are not bare.
Carol the summer, and welcome the Christ Child,
Warm in our sunshine and sweetness of air.
2. Sing of the gold and the green and the sparkle,
Water and river and lure of the beach.
Sing in the happiness of open spaces,
Sing a nativity summer can reach!
3. Shepherds and musterers move over hillsides.
Finding not angels but sheep to be shorn;
Wise ones make journeys whatever the season.
Searching for signs of the truth to be born
4. Right side up Christmas belongs to the universe,
Made in the moment a woman gives birth;
Hope is the Jesus gift, love is the offering,
Everywhere, anywhere, here on the earth.



Introduction:

2020 and 2021 have been strange years for all global citizens because of the Covid 19 virus and more recently the Delta variant of the virus. Lockdowns have left us tired and kept apart from family, friends and normal life. The vaccination requirements have created divisions among some people.

We also had *COP 26 Climate Change Conference* in Glasgow – where insufficient measures to stop global warming were agreed upon. Some limited progress has been made but much more is required. We need to keep these matters alive and do what we can for the well being of the earth and all of its creatures, especially for future generations.

Christmas 2021:

Voice 1

In this God's beautiful and damaged world, we once again turn our minds towards Christ's birth a human babe and of his birth into our lives today, if one is aware of his presence.

- Ponder on what might be the gift of our current times for you?
- Share with others if that's what you would like to do.

Voice 2

In a spirit of simplicity discuss with others the type of Christmas gifts you might make/repurpose/offer to help with to avoid the consumer pressures and gift from your own efforts of practical making /creating using your talents, time and love.

Intercessory Prayers:

Response: + **God of the Nativity, be born anew in our hearts**

May we open our hearts to the truth that you are born and reborn in our world through the Incarnate Word, and through the regeneration of all creation. **Response +**

May you bring to birth in us your deepest desires for us and our world. **Response +**

May peacefulness and justice in our neighbourhood and country be our deep concern. **Response +**

{Prayers from Josephite Prayer Book Vol 1 p82}

Blessing: I

May the Spirit of Jesus be born in us this Christmas and be cradled in our hearts.

May it bring us life – the life of laughter and generosity and kindness and joy.

II

May it quicken our imaginations,
May it drive away fear and anxiety,
May it heal us and others,
May it grow in us wisdom and love. AMEN

Silent Night You Tube

a well-known Christmas hymn with lyrics written by Joseph Mohr 1816.

{NB YouTubes can be accessed on electronic copies of the Liturgy only}

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.

